

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 EB-08 COME-00 STR-07 DLOS-09 AID-05

OMB-01 /080 W

-----104533 210759Z /14

R 210722Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5415

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

CINCPAC HONOLULU

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD JA AS NZ

SUBJECT: SUZUKI VISIT TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

REF: 77 TOKYO 16855

1. FORMER JAPANESE AGRICULTURE-FORESTRY MINISTER ZENO SUZUKI DEPARTED TOKYO FEBRUARY 13 FOR A PRIVATE VISIT WHICH IS TAKING HIM TO QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA (FEBRUARY 14-18), WELLINGTON (FEBRUARY 19-23), AND CANBERRA (FEBRUARY 23-25) AT INVITATION OF GOA AND GNZ. (WHILE NOT PRESENTLY MEMBER OF GOVERNMENT, SUZUKI IS CLOSE TO MASAYOSHI OHIRA, COMMONLY REGARDED AS NEXT PRIME MINISTER.) ACCORDING TO FONOFF OCEANIA DIVISION DEPDIR TANAKA, SUZUKI WILL DISCUSS TRADE MATTERS, PARTICULARLY SUGAR, WHILE IN QUEENSLAND. HE WILL ALSO EXPLORE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST IN EXPORTING LIVE CALVES TO JAPAN. TANAKA FELT GOJ COULD AGREE TO CALF IMPORTS, AND NOTED THAT QUEENSLAND PM WOULD COME TO JAPAN MARCH 8 FOR FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSIONS.

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2. ALTHOUGH SUZUKI IS TRAVELING IN PRIVATE CAPACITY, AN OFFICIAL FROM MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (MAF) WILL JOIN HIM FOR THE NEW ZEALAND PORTION OF TRIP. TANAKA SAID GOJ POSITION ON NEW ZEALAND DEMANDS FOR EXPANDED IMPORTS, PARTICULARLY OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, HAD NOT CHANGED SUBSTANTIALY SINCE DEPUTY PM TALBOYS' VISIT TO JAPAN LAST OCTOBER (REFTEL), AND THUS THERE

WAS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT SUZUKI WOULD FIND ANY EVIDENCE OF SOFTENING IN MULDOON'S POSITION LINKING EXPANDED NEW ZEALAND ACCESS TO JAPANESE MARKET WITH JAPANESE ACCESS TO NEW ZEALAND'S 200-MILE FISHING ZONE.

3. TANAKA ALSO DOUBTED THERE WOULD BE MUCH MEETING OF MINDS IN DISCUSSIONS SLATED FOR CANBERRA ON EXPANDING AUSTRALIA BEEF EXPORTS TO JAPAN. TANAKA SAID THAT 40,000 TON GLOBAL FIGURE ARRIVED AT IN STRAUSS-USHIBA AGREEMENT WAS FAR BELOW WHAT AUSTRALIANS WERE SEEKING. HE SAID SUZUKI WOULD MEET WITH DEPUTY PM ANTHONY--WHO WILL VISIT TOKYO IN MARCH--AND JAPANESE WERE TRYING TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENT FOR SUZUKI WITH PM FRASER. TANAKA SUPPOSED THAT AUSTRALIANS WOULD RAISE ATOMIC-ENERGY SAFEGUARDS AS WELL AS IRON AND COAL-EXPORT PROBLEMS WITH SUZUKI, BUT SAID FULL DISCUSSION ON THOSE ISSUES WOULD HAVE TO WAIT FOR ANTHONY VISIT, SINCE SUZUKI'S BACKGROUND WAS PRIMARILY IN AGRICULTURE.
MANSFIELD

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